

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MEETINGS OF THE

COUNCIL OF COLLEGE

OF

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Of the Province of Alberta

FOR THE YEAR 1923-1924

24 30 KII863

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

of the

Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Alberta

For the Year 1923-1924

President

DR. W. S. GALBRAITH, Lethbridge, Alta.

Vice-President

DR. HAROLD W. McGILL, Calgary, Alta.

Members

DR. W. G. ANDERSON, Wardlow
DR. W. S. GALBRAITH, Lethbridge
DR. A. E. ARCHER, Lamont
DR. H. W. McGILL, Calgary

DR. J. S. WRIGHT, Edmonton

Registrar-General

DR. GEO. R. JOHNSON, Calgary, Alta.

Asst. to Registrar

MR. W. G. HUNT, 224 7th Ave, West Calgary, Alta.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive

DR. W. S. GALBRAITH (Chairman)
DR. H. W. McGILL
DR. A. E. ARCHER

Discipline

DR. R. H. BRETT (Chairman) And other members of the Council

Finance

DR. J. S. WRIGHT (Chairman)
DR. W. S. GALBRAITH DR. R. H. BRETT
DR. H. W. McGILL

Education and Printing
DR. A. E. ARCHER (Chairman)
DR. W. G. ANDERSON
DR. W. S. GALBRAITH

Legislation

DR. J. S. WRIGHT (Chairman) DR. W. V. LAMB

DR. W. S. GALBRAITH

COUNCIL 1924-1925

DR. W. S. GALBRAITH, Lethbridge, President
DR. HAROLD W. McGILL, Calgary, Vice-President
DR. W. G. ANDERSON, Wardlow DR. W. V. LAMB, Camrose
DR. R. H. BRETT, Banff DR. A. E. ARCHER, Lamont
DR. W. A. WILSON, Edmonton
DR. GEO. R. JOHNSON, Calgary, Registrar-Treasurer
W. G. HUNT, 224 7th Ave. West, Calgary, Asst. to Registrar

Standing Committees 1924

Executive

DR. W. A. WILSON DR. A. E. ARCHER DR. R. H. BRETT DR. H. W. McGILL

Discipline

DR. A. E. ARCHER (Chairman) and other members of the Council

Finance

DR. W. A. WILSON (Chairman) DR. H. BRETT DR. W. G. ANDERSON DR. W. V. LAMB

Education

DR. A. E. ARCHER DR. W. V. LAMB (Chairman)
DR. A. E. ARCHER DR. R. H. BRETT DR. H. W. McGILL

Legislation

DR. W. G. ANDERSON (Chairman)
DR. A. E. ARCHER DR. W. A. WILSON DR. W. V. LAMB

Representatives on the Senate of University of Alberta

DR. J. S. WRIGHT, 1923-1924 DR. W. A. WILSON, 1924-1925

Representatives on the Medical Council of Canada HIS HONOR LIEUT. GOVERNOR R. G. BRETT, M.D. DR. D. G. REVELL, 1921-1924 inclusive

On Medical Council of Canada, Appointed by Governor-in-Council DR. E. A. BRAITHWAITE, 1921-1924 inclusive

Representatives on the Executive Committee of Alberta Medical Assn.
DR. W. S. GALBRAITH AND DR. H. W. McGILL, 1923
DR. W. S. GALBRAITH AND DR. W. A. WILSON, 1924

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE, OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ALBERTA.

GENTLEMEN:

We herewith submit to you the Annual Report of your Council for the year 1923-1924, which will indicate the matters that have come up for consideration during the year as well as the action taken by your Council.

ANNUAL MEETING

As in 1922 so in 1923 an Annual Meeting was held of the College during the time of the Convention of the Alberta Medical Association, and at this last meeting your Council asked the co-operation and advice of the members of the College in order that they might more nearly interpret their wishes in all matters of interest. This feature will be continued this year again as it is believed to be the best way to keep the members in touch with what is going on.

ELECTIONS

According to the amendment of the Medical Act of two years ago and the adoption of new by-laws, copies of which have been forwarded to all, elections are being held annually for a certain number of the districts. That is four councillors are elected in the even years, and three councillors in the odd years, with the result that this year elections were held in districts 1, 3, 5 and 7, and the following were elected councillors:

Dr. W. G. Anderson, Wardlow, District No. 1.

Dr. R. H. Brett, Banff, District No. 3.

Dr. A. E. Archer, Lamont, District No. 5.

Dr. W. A. Wilson, Edmonton, District No. 7.

NARCOTIC DRUGS

A resolution standing on the books reads as follows:

"Whereas members of this Council deem it incumbent on them to give full support to the Federal Health Department in regulating the use of Narcotic Drugs and whereas this Council has already gone on record in this regard, therefore be it resolved that the registrar be hereby instructed to communicate with all the members in this matter, and ask their active support in every endeavor to eliminate the illegal use of Narcotic Drugs. Failing this co-operation the Council is prepared to use its full disciplinary powers for the purpose." In conformance with the above the Council kept in touch with the

Department of Health, Ottawa, and was advised by them as to any convictions under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act of Canada.

The Department of Health in addition to the above information furnished your Council with a list of the names of the members who in their opinion were prescribing or administering narcotics too freely, and with this information gave the quantities and dates of the drugs used. Your Council reviewed this information and in some cases felt that the medical men had acted in a proper manner while in other cases they were convinced that their members were either not using good judgment or had erroneous ideas as to what was the proper treatment to be given to drug addicts with a view to curing them of the habit. In this last class several men were brought before the Discipline Committee which went thoroughly into the charges and gave the accused members every opportunity to explain their actions. Where this explanation was not satisfactory your Council notified the members, Dr. J. A. Hislop and Dr. Albert Crux, that they must immediately change their mode of conduct or failing to do so more drastic steps would be taken against them.

In the case of the conviction in the courts of Dr. A. S. Donaldson of Calgary for violation of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act of Canada the Council ordered his name to be erased from the Register. In the case of Dr. E. B. Fisher of Medicine Hat for violation of the above Act on his promise not to repeat the offence the Council gave him a suspended sentence.

In 1921 the Department of Health at Ottawa published a pamphlet entitled "The Problem of the Narcotic Drug Addict" by Prentice, and copies of this pamphlet were sent to every medical practitioner in Canada whose address they had. If you did not receive your copy or if your copy has been mislaid, we are prepared to furnish you with another, and we believe it is in the interests of every one of you to read this pamphlet thoroughly in order that we may assist the Department in eliminating as far as possible this injurious habit.

HOSPITALIZATION OF DRUG ADDICTS

Some time ago your Council made representation to Ottawa that some provision should be made for proper hospitalization of drug addicts as it was not fair to our profession to blame them for their action when no proper provision was made for the care of the patients. The Department however replied that health matters came under provincial control and the Province was responsible and not the Dominion.

At the last session of the Legislature of Alberta an amendment was made to the Insanity Act, making hospital provision for drug addicts. The name of the institution at Ponoka being changed to Mental Hospital. The amendments read as follows:

"Every addict shall be deemed to be a person who is in need of treatment, such as is provided in a hospital, and the provisions of this Act relating to insane persons are hereby made applicable to addicts." You will see by the following amendments that the manner of having insane persons or addicts sent to a hospital has been changed. The new Act reads thus:

"Any person resident in Alberta who is or is believed to be in need of treatment for mental diseases such as is provided in a hospital may be admitted thereto in any of the ways following, and in the manner hereinafter provided:

"(a) By voluntary submission to treatment;

"(b) By medical certificate:

"(c) By warrant of the Attorney General.

"Any person who believes himself to be or to be about to become in need of treatment such as is provided in a hospital may voluntarily make application for admission thereto, and the superintendent may direct that such person is to be received and detained as a patient therein, if satisfied that his mental condition warrants such reception and attention."

"If such person is mentally competent to make application for admission in writing he shall be required by the superintendent to do so."

"When two legally qualified medical practitioners issue their certificates according to the form laid down by the Minister to the effect that they have separately examined the person named therein, and that he should be confined in a hospital, and such certificates have been submitted and approved of by the Superintendent, such person may if it is so directed by a justice of the peace be conveyed to a hospital, without any further or other authority than is provided by the issue of such direction."

"Whenever any person is admitted to a hospital otherwise than by warrant, the Superintendent shall obtain information with respect to his residence for at least six months previous to admission, his calling or profession, his means of support, his relatives and friends, and shall ascertain whether he is married or single, the full extent of his property and possessions, and such other facts as may be deemed necessary."

You will see therefore that according to the amended Act a medical practitioner has no further need to expose himself to annoyances from the Department of Health at Ottawa or elsewhere in his treatment of addicts. He and a confrere by separate examinations may have the patient taken to a mental hospital where proper treatment can be given under the necessary restrictions.

INSANE PERSONS

You will note also the new provision as above mentioned makes it easier to have people who are insane or in need of mental treatment admitted to an Institution, it is not now necessary to have them convicted in a court of law as criminals.

IRREGULARS

We are pleased to report that the Attorney General's Department has to a greater measure than formerly accepted the pro-

fession's viewpoint in the matter of the enforcement of the Medical Act. The Department's attention was called to the fact that the Medical Act permitted your Council to discipline its members only, and that if the responsibility was to be placed on our Council for disciplining all violaters of the Medical Act then the Act would have to be amended, giving the Council further powers. Failing this the responsibility was on the Department to discipline those who by the Act were outside the powers of the Council. As the result of this, several actions have been taken by the Attorney General's Department and irregulars have been fined by the courts, one very noted offender having for second offence been sentenced to a term in jail, but on appeal through a technicallity the sentence was reversed and he was liberated. We are advised that he is now seeking a location elsewhere.

REGISTRATION

There seems to be an idea prevalent in Eastern Canada and the United States that most any man can be registered in Alberta regardless of the type of his education or his conduct. Your Council has endeavored during the past year to disabuse the minds of the people in this regard. During the year applications were received from two individuals who had been practicing in other Provinces, one of whom had had his name erased and the other had a case pending in the Court. On investigation and when the facts were established we refused admission to our Register. Some men coming from foreign countries have been refused admission to the Register owing to the fact that their University training was had in a low grade school.

INTERIMS

Your Council has been investigating the question of allowing interims to practice in this Province, and finds that in the chief Provinces of Canada, no man is allowed to practice medicine even as assistant or in a hospital unless he is a duly registered practitioner. During the year the Council refused to further extend interim licenses of certain men who had been practising for two or three years on interims and failed to qualify by examination either through nonappearance or inability, and these men have since left the Province. We believe that the time is past when interims should be granted as there are a sufficient number of fully qualified men in the Province to care for the needs of the people. The medical Act as it stands makes provision for this and your Council contemplated having this clause eliminated, but was advised by a member of the Government that it would not be advisable this year to have the Act amended by the elimination of clause 35, but while this clause still stands the greatest caution will be exercised in its application.

UNLICENSED MEDICAL MEN

Complaint has come to the Council that certain doctors have been employing unlicensed graduates as assistants when licensed men were available. As the Medical Act specifically states that no medical man shall be allowed to do this, the Council took the matter up with the men in question and got the assurance that this would cease. We now wish to direct the attention of the members of the College who may not have been aware of this provision previously that in future they must avoid this manner of violation.

HOSPITAL INTERNS

This matter has been before the Council on a request of the Manitoba Medical College in its plan to make arrangements with the various large hospitals in Western Canada to admit fifth year students as interns such period to count as their final year in their medical course. A Committee was appointed to meet with representatives of Alberta University, the Alberta Hospitals Association, and representatives of the city hospitals. On December 5th, the committee met in Edmonton and Dean Rankin presented an abstract from a committee representing the medical faculties of the Association of Canadian Universities which met in Kingston in the Summer The proposal was that no students should be placed during their course outside of the absolute control of the faculty, and that their fifth year should contain a definite amount of didactic instruction. This was agreed to by several of the schools representative, and tentatively by the representatives of Manitoba Medical College. As there was some misunderstanding as to Manitoba's attitude, a telegram was sent and the following reply was received. "Faculty adhering to scheme as submitted in April. Internship with clinical and some didactic instruction for calender year." As this conformed neither to the April proposal nor to the Canadian University Association programme progress only could be reported. It transpired however that the University of Alberta would in the near future be in a position to graduate a class and expected to be able to place such as wished in Alberta Hospitals as interns without registration.

MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT

During the period of the great war an amendment was placed in the Medical Act permitting the Council to register without examination graduates of Canadian Medical Universities who were resident in Alberta on the 4th of August, 1914, and served in His Majesty's forces overseas. As will be seen, this made no provision for registering graduates whose diplomas were issued by Universities other than Canadian. At the last session of the Legislature, a private bill was presented providing for the registration without examination of an overseas man Dr. G. M. Ross of Rumsey. Your Council objected to the principle of legislating men into the profession, and recommended that Section 9 of Clause 34 of the Medical Act, be amended to permit of the Council registering a man who was qualified in a University approved of by the Senate of the University of Alberta provided he was a resident in Alberta when war was declared and went overseas. This amendment was made and Dr. Ross who was a graduate of a Grade A American University was duly registered.

OSTEOPATHS

Some years ago by mistake certain osteopaths were allowed to take their medical examinations in the University of Alberta, and according to report of the Registrar of that institution passed with good standing. On investigation your Council was convinced that there had been certain irregularities which did not warant the issuance of medical licenses to these men, and consequently they were refused. A suit was threatened in one instance and in the second an action was actually taken against the Council and the Registrar for refusal to grant a license. The matter was put in the hands of our solicitor, and a defence prepared and presented to the Court. in the Spring of 1923. Under ordinary circumstances the case would have come up for trial at the Fall Session of 1923, but up to the present date the solicitor for the Osteopath has made no further move, and the matter therefore still rests in obevance. We are convinced that no man should be licensed as a duly qualified medical practitioner who has not had a training in a medical school whose standing is acceptable to the Senate of University as agreed upon between the Senate of the University and the College of Physicians and Surgeons at the time the University became the examining body.

CHIROPRACTORS

You will doubtless call to mind that in the closing hours of the 1923 session of the Alberta Legislature a chiropractic bill was passed by that body, under which a special chiropractic board composed of five persons, two appointed on nomination of the Chiropractic Association, two on nomination of the University, and the chairman by the Government. Under this Act the qualification for license of the chiropractors then in the Province was lower than that of all future applicants. After that date all men must have had a matriculation examination equal to the medical matriculation examination of Alberta University, followed by a three years' course in a duly recognized chiropractic school. Under that Act some twenty-seven men were licensed in this Province.

PRACTICAL NURSES

Complaints have come to us of practical nurses who have been acting as physicians in some instances and have even practiced in prohibited territory. In one instance the woman had been under treatment in a mental hospital for two years, and the results of her work are such as would lead one to believe that she had not fully recovered. We have put the matter in the hands of the Department of the Attorney General, and have his assurance that the case will be dealt with. It is not felt however that in the present condition of the Province, with so many sparsely settled areas, it is advisable to have the following clause in the Medical Act amended:

"Clause 70. Provided that the provisions of this section insofar as they refer to the practice of midwifery shall apply only

to the territory included within the limits of any incorporated city, town or village having a resident practitioner therein."

You will see therefore that there is no restriction in their practice in the country, they are not obliged to keep beyond the twenty mile limit, nor to have a thorough training.

ABRAMS' THEORY

Complaint has been made to the Council that three members of the College were practising the above theory in this Province. A special committee was appointed to go into the matter and make a report to the Council. The theory is based on the following: First, all properties of matter depend on the vibration of the electrons; two, all tissues have each their specific electronic vibrations or currents each differing from the other and diseased from healthy tissue; three, the blood from diseased persons is capable of setting up various and different electronic currents according to the diseased person; four, these electronic currents can be measured, and the proper deductions made by connecting up a healthy subject with the blood in question, by means of the Abrams' machine.

The Committee went into the matter thoroughly, had data before them both for and against the theory, met the men complained against, and as a result reported as follows:

"The Committee is not convinced that the method of diagonosis as it is based on the Abrams' theory rests upon any scientific basis. Any so called electronic vibrations the existence of which is assumed would naturally require very delicate means of detection and measurement. The Committee would think that such currents would be effectually interrupted by the paper envelope covering the blood being tested." The Council duly considered the question and advised the men complained against, Dr. N. G. Nyblett, Dr. G. W. Leech, and Dr. R. S. Broad, that they must cease the practice of the Abrams' Theory, and received the assurance that their request would be complied with. We have received from the Canadian Medical Association copies of pamphlets issued by the American Association which at some length show the fallacy of the contention of Abrams'. In these documents is found a report of Professor R. A. Millikan, head of the California Institute of Technology, a physicist of the first rank, a Nobel prize man, and an acknowledged authority in the realm of physics and electricity. He condemns in no uncertain way the Abrams' machine as entirely unscientific, and ends his report as follows:

"Finally it is true that the electrons inside of atoms give off under suitable stimulation frequencies of definite period, which are properly called electronic frequencies. These frequencies are billions of time higher than any which the Abrams' people are using in the treatment, so that the use of the word electronic in connection with the Abrams' method is simply wholly misleading and unscientific."

The Council has a supply of these pamphlets on hand, and will be pleased to furnish them on request.

DEPORTMENT

On page 17 of our code of ethics, a copy of which has been sent to you, section 3 reads as follows:

"A physician should be an upright man instructed in the art of healing. Consequently he must keep himself pure in character and conform to a high standard of morals, and must be dilligent and conscientious in his studies." He should also be modest, sober, patient, prompt to do his whole duty, without anxiety, pious, without going so far as superstition conducting himself with propriety in his profession, and in all the actions of his life" (Hippocrates). We desire to remind some members of the profession that the above clause is not obsolete. Your Council has had occasion to look into a complaint of a doctor who attempted to attend to his professional duties while under the influence of liquor, and has received the assurance that this will not be repeated. Two of our members were fined for violation of the Liquor Act, and were reprimanded by your Council.

COURT DECISIONS

It is interesting to note that during the year some important court decisions have been rendered. One Harry Gibbons of Edmonton sued a chiropractor named John F. Harris of Edmonton for damages in connection with the treatment of his child. The trial judge granted the complainant \$2,000.00 damages. The case was appealed but the court confirmed the judgment of the trial judge, though reduced the amount of damages. In the written judgment the court stated. "The defendant held himself out to be at least a reasonably prudent and skillful man, and after a proper examination of the patient should have been aware of the nature of the trouble, and if so would not or should not have taken the course he did. His falling short of the requisite knowledge and skill which he should have possessed to diagnose the case and working in the dark presuming to deal with it, in effect regardless of results constituted negligence for the consequences of which naturally flowing therefrom he must be held liable."

In the opinion of our solicitor, the fact has been established that chiropractors are responsible for proper diagnosis, and this decision of the court cannot be reversed without a special act of the Legisature.

In the superior court in the City of Montreal recently Judge Coderre declared, "That the performance of any act demanding medical or surgical knowledge by an unqualified person, constitutes the illegal practice of medicine."

From the foregoing it will be quite apparent that the principle that the medical men have every where contended for namely, that no man should be allowed to practice any healing art unless by education and training he be properly qualified, and though in times past they have not succeeded in so impressing the law making bodies

the judges with their more mature deliberation have established and humanity is likely to be protected against the acts of its popular law making body.

CONTRACT PRACTICE

Quoting again from the code of ethics, on page 23. "It is unprofessional for a physician to dispose of his services under conditions that make it impossible to render adequate service to his patient, or which interfere with reasonable competition among the physicians of a community."

Your Council has had before it the question of what would or would not be considered true ethical contract practice in a sparsely settled Province like ours where in many cases unless some type of contract were made it would be impossible for a doctor to be assured of a living, and without which the community would be denied the services of a trained man. A special committee was appointed to draft a letter to the entire profession in the Province and ask for the serious consideration of the subject by all members and report back to the registrar with any suggestions. In addition to this being done special letters were sent to the various city medical associations urging that special committees be appointed to go into the matter and report. So far in response only two individual reports have been received, but it is expected that at the annual meeting of the College on July 4th next, some valuable suggestions may be given. We have taken this matter up with the American Medical Association of Chicago and so far they have not succeeded in satisfactorily solving the question in laying down any general rules or principles of importance.

BRITISH RECIPROCITY

During the war period reciprocal relationships were established between this Province and the General Medical Council of Great Britain. Since that time the British regulations have been changed whereby practitioners in order to be registered in Great Britain must have had a five years' course of training. Your Council has made representations to the effect that if the new regulations apply to all men it might work a hardship on those who graduated prior to the establishment of a five year course, and in answer we have received the assurance that those men whose names are entered on our register by examination either at the time we were part of the North-West Territories or since will be entitled to registration by reciprocity. All who have registered since 1918 however must have had the five years' course.

PROVINCIAL RECIPROCITY

At the time the foregoing provision was made it was not contemplated that Canadians would transfer from one province to another by a British medical passport, which is what is largely the custom today. Men prefer to apply to Great Britain and send the fee of \$25,00 to get British registration rather than try the examination of the Medical Council of Canada and pay \$100,00 when they desire the rights to practice in another province. The practice of registering men in any province in Canada except British Columbia by virtue of their British medical certificate has been quite common. and has called forth considerable comment. It remained however for Saskatchewan Council to have their provincial act amended by the following words: "Any person who is duly registered by the general medical council of Great Britain after examination by the said Council, etc." so that now only those who have passed the British examinations are entitled to register without further examination. It is the feeling of your Council that whatever steps were taken to alter the practice of using the British Medical passport from one province to another should have been taken by the various provinces together and not worked out by one individual province alone. As it stands now a Saskatchewan man has privileges in Alberta, which an Alberta man is denied in Saskatchewan.

FURTHER SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATION

A further amendment to the Saskatchewan Medical Act reads as follows: "Every person registered as a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the North-West Territories on the 26th day of May, 1906, who on or before the first day of January, 1925, pays all arrears of annual fees levied by the College from the said date until the date of registration of such person," We are not sure of the full import of this clause, and are taking the matter up with Saskatchewan to see whether the intent and purpose is to insist that all those members who had rights in Saskatchewan in May, 1906, lose them unless they pay fees that accumulated in their absence from the Province, as it is not the custom to collect fees from men who are practicing in some other province, unless and until they return.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BOARD

At the last Annual Meeting of the College of Physicians and Surgeons held in Calgary, September, 1923, the following resolution was passed unanimously. "That in the opinion of the College of Physicians and Surgeons met in General Meeting to advise with the Council the present attitude of the medical referee of the Workmen's Compensation Board) in cases of dispute is an impossible one and not acceptable to the members, therefore we would recommend that the Board be requested to appoint, on advice with the Council a **Medical Board of Appeal** whose findings will supercede those of the medical referee, and be accepted by the Board as a basis of compensation and medical aid in all cases of dispute."

Your Council presented this resolution to the Workmen's Compensation Board and suggested that in order to get better co-operation between the medical men and the Board, that the following further changes in their treatment of the medical men would be desirable:

- 1. The relieving of the medical man of the responsibility of seeing that all reports from the employer reach the Workmen's Compensation Board.
- 2. Ceasing the constant small deduction from accounts with the simple explanation that too many dressings were done.
- 3. The definite establishment of the right of a man to choose his dector
- 4. Where men are sent to a city for examination or treatment and the workman has no knowledge of any doctor, case to be referred to doctors in rotation.
- 5. Promptness in advising doctors that certain cases do not come under the Board, and thus give time to collect the bill before the patient disappears.
- 6. The adoption of a form to be furnished by the Board and to be signed by the workman receiving the treatment, a copy of which to be sent to the Board with the first report and a copy to go to the employer so that he would be notified immediately.

After consideration the Board stated that it was their custom in cases of dispute to have the man boarded by three doctors, viz: the physician in charge of the case, the medical referce, and a third man chosen by the Board, but they were willing that the third man should be one selected from ten names furnished by the Council from the North or ten names from the South, or for the Council to appoint the third man. When shown that this Board could not be considered independent, when the man's own physician and referce were both on it, the Workmen's Compensation Board decided they would give the question further consideration.

In answer to the first proposal above, the Board stated they would go before the Government and have the Compensation Act amended compelling the employers to notify the Board of all accidents requiring medical attention regardless whether the workman was off duty or not, or the Board liable to pay compensation. This amendment was passed at the last session of the Legislature.

The Board agreed that in future, cards printed be placed in shops and factories where the workman had access to it, a statement would be made that workmen had a right to choose their doctor, but the Board reserved the right to see that the workman had a doctor who was capable of giving the case the needed attention, but they would not permit an outside employer or doctor to choose a city doctor for any workman. They further agreed that where no doctor was chosen by the workman, they would send the cases in rotation to the men who were qualified and capable of treating the case that came in. The Board further agreed to advise the doctor immediately they knew any case in question did not come under their jurisdiction, at the present time their rule was to advise the medical man within seven days of his report if the employers report had not been received.

The Board agreed that in future no change would be made in the fees paid to medical men without consulting the Council. After further consideration of the question of the appointment of a Medical Board of Appeal the Workmen's Compensation Board decided against the request of the Council, but stated they were prepared to submit any case in dispute to a special committee of three appointed by the Council. That this Committee would not be considered by them a grievance committee, and whatever report they made would receive due consideration.

Sometime after the meeting of the committee of your Council with the Workmen's Compensation Board at their request the executive committee of the Council met them. The subject under discussion this time was concerning certain complaints that had been made against the action of the medical referee by some doctors in Edmonton who had an informal meeting with the Premier, the Minister of Public Works, and the chairman of the Compensation Board at the request of the Premier himself. Your executive made the following statements to the Board:

- 1. The Doctors resent having to enter into a verbal fight every time they ask information on, or consideration of any case they have been treating. The Medical Referee should at least be civil, and in addition should not pre-judge the case until he has heard the evidence.
- 2. The Medical Referee cannot possibly know when a general amnesthetic is necessary, for certain treatment of an infected hand unless he is present and sees the case himself.
- 3. The Medical Referee cannot possibly know how many dressings are necessary in any given case, without seeing the patient at the first and continually throughout the care and treatment.
- 4. There is a widespread feeling that the Referee "plays favorites" referring many cases to some and none to others, and that the failure to accept the Referee's decision without question means a diminution of referred work.
- 5. The present Medical Referee is very arbitrary in his general dealings with the doctors and the workmen, and they resent the insulting treatment at his hands.
- 6. Direct evidence is in existence where endeavors have been made to switch patients from the man of their choice, to someone else, and to men no more worthy than the one chosen by the patient.
- 7. Where disagreements have arisen between the attending physician and the medical referce, cases have been boarded, without the knowledge of the man in charge of the case.
- 8. It is not right that the Medical Referee, should use his arbitrary powers to enforce his decisions, when his training, his personal practical experience, and his actual knowledge of the case in point are not equal to that of the man in charge of the case.
- 9. A patient cannot be said to have exercised his option of choice when the attending physician was the only one available in the emergency. If later he is transferred to some other point where the facilities for treatment are better, he should have the option in the larger field.

- 10. A patient going to a second place for treatment, should be allowed to seek advice as to the surgeon, from whomsoever he chooses, and providing the surgeon is capable, he should not be refused the case on account of the fact that he was recommended by the employer of the man or by the doctor attending the case in the first instance.
- 11. In case the man chosen by the patient be incapable, and the Board recommends another man, the doctors selected by the Board should be selected in rotation from the competent surgeons in the place.
- 12. It may be natural, after having referred several cases to certain men and having obtained good results, as a matter of habit to continue to use the same special men; but that is no reason why others just as capable should never have a case referred to them.
- 13. Assistant referees in places other than Edmonton, whether paid by salary, retaining fee or a special consultant's fee, should not do operative work for the Board. They should not be in the position where they referee their own cases, and the patient having been sent in to the referee should not feel under obligation to use him.

The above suggestions are being considered by the Board, but up to the present their decision has not been made known to us.

COMPENSATION FEES

It has been suggested by certain anaesthetists that there should be a revision of their fees in connection with Workmen's Compensation Board cases, and they suggest the following:

- 1. No division into minor and major operations.
- 2. For the first hour regardless of operation fee \$7.50.
- 3. For the next half hour \$2.50.
- 4. For the next half hour or until the operation is over \$2.50, with a maximum of \$12.50 instead of \$10.00 as at present, and a minimum of \$7.50 instead of \$5.00.

The Council has been gathering data from other provinces and a number of States in the Union and getting the opinion of other men and have not come to a decision in the matter.

PROFESSIONAL FEES

A number of the men feel that the time has arrived when a revision of fees for professional services should be considered. The Council is open to suggestions, and will at a later date consider the matter from various points of view.

VITAL STATISTICS ACT

The Department of Vital Statistics in Edmonton have felt for a long time that in the interests of Science and Health as well as in the interests of more accurate information, some plan should be arranged so that post mortens could be made with less difficulty, and as a consequence at the last session of the Legislature the following amendment was made: "In any case of death where the cause is ill defined, obscure or unknown, the Registrar General may at his discretion order that a post mortem examination be made of the body of the deceased." It will be apparent from the above that in all doubtful cases as to cause of death, the Department has the power to order a post mortem regardless of the wishes of the interested parties.

RESEARCH WORK

The Council voted an additional \$2,000 to assist Professor J. B. Collip of Edmonton in research work, believing that any assistance they could render in the further development of insulin

or gluco kinin would be of great advantage to humanity.

It has been felt that when the Dominion Government substantially recognized the labors of Dr. Banting by granting him an annuity. Professor Collip's name should have been included. The Council has taken this up with the Government, and been assured by Hon. Chas. Stewart that had the names been presented to the Cabinet Council together there is no doubt Dr. Collip would have received very favorable consideration, but he thought that it was too late. Your Council is continuing its endeavors to see that proper financial recognition be given.

PROVINCIAL CERTIFICATES

In some of the provinces of Canada it has been the custom of the Councils to issue two forms of license certificates, one indicating that the member received his certificate as the result of the provincial examinations, the other was registered through reciprocity. The Council considered this matter, and did not think it was of sufficient importance to warrant them issuing two kinds of certificates.

ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY

This Society assisted by the Red Cross requested a grant from your Council towards the expenses of certain district surveys of school children to see the percentage affected by tuberculosis in the Province of Alberta. The Council considered the matter carefully, and made a grant of \$500.00. The survey has been undertaken and will be completed in a thorough manner, and we may anticipate valuable information when the report is issued.

J. J. O'MALLEY VS. DR. G. D. STANLEY

During the year one self styled eye specialist named J. J. O'Malley took an action for libel against a past president of the Council. Owing to certain actions of Dr. Stanley in his official capacity he had incurred the displeasure of this man. The case was tried in the Calgary Court, and lasted several days. The jury bringing in a verdict in favor of the plaintiff and assessing \$1.00

damages. The judge however took the case away from the jury and dismissed the action with costs, stating that no grounds whatever could be found on which a jury should have brought in a conviction. The costs of the Court and the fees for the solicitor for the defence amounted to over \$1,400.00. It may be interesting to note that the Government had this man convicted for violation of the Medical Act, and fined. Some time later he was convicted under the Medical Act, and sentenced to three months in jail. On appeal however the conviction was quashed on what a layman might call a technicallity. The action of the Government in this case is evidence of its desire to protect humanity.

U. S. DIPLOMAS MILL

There has been considerable scandal in the United States as the result of certain revelations in St. Louis, of medical men being made by cash and not by study. It is stated that there have been in the vicinity of 25,000 men who have been granted medical diplomas in various states of the Union, without attending College or taking the examinations. The Governor of Connecticut vetoed a bill that had for its object confirming some twenty men in their rights as medical practitioners in that State, which rights had been granted them by the eclectic board, and the case did not end there. The Governor referred the matter to the Grand Jury, which investigated. and the result has been that many men have lost their license, and a number left that State on short notice. We receive copies of the Governor's letter, and noted the fact that the principle ground for his action was that the public were entitled to protection. When all Governments and legislatures are seized with that viewpoint it will be better for humanity.

As the result of the revelations we decided to review the standing of all our American Registrants, that is those who got their course in American Universities, and found that of twenty-nine men in this Province, twenty-four came from Grade A American Universities. and of the five others whose training was in a University of lower standing, none came from the Diplomas Mill, two had ceased to practice, and the others had been registered a number of years ago when medical men were fewer than at present. Your Council conferred on the matter with the University of Alberta, and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and have been assured in the most positive manner that no applicants for medical examinations will be allowed to take our provincial examinations unless their training has been in a University of such standing as commends itself to the Senate of the University of Alberta. We mention this fact to assure the members of our College that the Council is prepared to maintain the high standard of qualification in this Province.

CANADIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL

Your Council has gone on record that all those members of provincial colleges who were entitled to dominion registration

without examination by virtue of the ten years practice clause should not be obliged to pay the \$100,00 fee, but should be admitted for \$25,00. That is the amount of the fee for British registration through reciprocity. A year ago only one other provincial council endorsed the principle, since then a second council has done so. but the Medical Council of Canada refused to make a reduction in 1923, and we have no report from the 1924 meeting. The Alberta Council has felt for some time that the Medical Council of Canada did not occupy the important place in the Dominion to which it was entitled, and having that in mind, we sent a letter to the members of the Medical Council of Canada, and also the chief members of all the Provincial Medical Councils, and all the Provincial Medical Associations, with the idea that the various official medical bodies would take the matter into their consideration at their Annual Meetings and using our suggestions as a basis would evolve some real practical suggestions of benefit to the profession throughout Canada. Some of the questions raised would necessitate an amendment to the present Act, but that is not impossible as the original Act suffered more important amendments than these suggestions would call for. The following are the suggestions advanced by us:

- 1. An arrangement be made whereby every man who was registered in any province in Canada on November 7th, 1912, could become a Dominion Registrant on the payment of a 825.00 fee instead of \$100.00 as at present.
- 2. All who registered through provincial examinations since November 7th, 1912, to be eligible for Dominion registration without examination on payment of a fee of \$50.00.
- 3. All future graduates to be charged an examination fee of \$50.00 only instead of \$100.00 as at present.
 - 4. All provincial registration fees to be uniform, and \$50.00.
- 5. No provincial examination, but all provinces to accept the examination of the Medical Council of Canada in lieu of their own.
- 6. Examinations to be held by the Medical Council of Canada in all provinces where there are Medical Schools or Medical Universities.
- 7. All provincial representatives on the Medical Council of Canada to be members of their local, Provincial Medical Councils.
- 8. Provincial Medical Councils to elect their Councillors for a two-year term instead of four years as at present, half of the members to be elected annually.
- 9. Councils, whose provincial elections are for a two-year termto elect their representatives on the Medical Council of Canada for two years instead of four years.
- 10. Special meetings of the representatives of the Provincial Councils to be held following the Annual Meeting of the Medical Council of Canada and to discuss all legislative matters of the various provinces with a view of obtaining uniformity.
- 11. The Medical Council of Canada to change its name to the General Medical Council of Canada.

- 12. The General Medical Council to have special committees on education, legislation, and discipline, etc.
- 13. The General Medical Council of Canada through its Lducational Committee to establish the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in affiliation with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Great Britain and grant degrees on examination.

We are anticipating a message from the Medical Council of Canada as to what action they took on the subject.

Insurance Examinations

Complaints have come to us from two or three sources that the information furnished by medical examiners is not all satisfactory, and when insurance companies request information certain of our members have used insulting language. We are further informed that some medical men in examining applicants guess at the height and weight, and are generally over on the one and under on the other with so much regularity as to lead the insurance companies to be suspicious. It goes without saying that if the medical profession is going to maintain the respect of the community reports issued must be absolutely in accordance with the facts. The Council is dealing with one offender at the present time but has not yet come to a decision.

MEDICAL LIBRARY

A request has come from the University of Alberta for assistance in the establishment of a medical library to be placed in the University Building. The Council decided not to make a grant.

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Requests have come to the Council for permission to allow fifth year students to practice as assistants or act as locums, but the power of granting such special requests is not given to the Council, and even if it were the Council would hesitate to exercise its power as we are firmly convinced the interests of the community demand that only properly trained and qualified practitioners be allowed to practice.

LOCATING DOCTORS

During the year we have written some hundreds of letters to doctors wanting to dispose of their practices, or others seeking a practice to towns and municipalities requiring a doctor, or complaining of the action of the doctor there. We regret to say that all too frequently when a doctor disposes of his practice or chooses a location he fails to advise us and its only after further correspondence and the direction to other men that we learn that the place has been filled.

Compensation Board Complaints

We have on very many occasions taken up specific cases with the Workmen's Compensation Board, and frequently got a satisfactory result. We were advised by the Board that doctors do not send in sufficient information in reporting cases nor do they send in their bills promptly. Complaint is also made that some medical men overlook the fact that all injured workmen are not entitled to hospitalization, and the Board objects to hospitals becoming boarding houses at their expense. We would remind our members that all expense of over hospitalization has to be paid out of the medical fund and helps to swell the present deficit.

NEW REGISTER

We are issuing a new register covering all the members of our college, and have gone to a great deal of trouble in referring to other provincial and dominion lists in order to get the correct addresses of all. We are satisfied mistakes will be found, but we used all the information available to make the list as nearly accurate as possible.

ARREARS IN FEES

The Registrar was instructed to press all members in arrears and if they persisted in not paying, to place the matter in the Courts for collection.

INDIGENTS

The responsibility for medical treatment and hospitalization of indigent residents has been placed by the Alberta Legislature on the various municipalities, but the language of the Act is not sufficiently clear to press this fact home to the local councillors. The spirit of this Act, like that of all remedial legislation, is one of generosity and according to legal custom throughout the Anglo Saxon world, should be interpreted generously. To the average councillor no person is an indigent unless he is a tramp or beggar and it is very doubtful if the true interpretation of the meaning of the Act will come until after a definite judgment is given by the Courts.

LISTER MEMORIAL

On the unanimous request of the Alberta Medical Association the Council granted the sum of \$450.00 to the Lister Memorial Fund. This is Alberta's share of the \$5,000.00 fund being raised in Canada.

Dr. A. E. Hardin of Granum was fined f r violation of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act of Canada, but on appeal this judgment was quashed.

Annual Meeting of the College

The Annual Meeting of the College of Physicians and Surgeons was held in Edmonton on July 4th, 1924. After the President reviewed the work of the year, and placed in the hands of those present printed reports of the work of the Council, considerable discussion took place on the attitude of the Workmen's Compen-

sation Board to the medical profession and resulted in the following resolutions being passed:

"Resolved, that we memorialize the Government to the effect that in the opinion of the College of Physicians and Surgeons the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act will be unsatisfactory until such time as a representative of the Medical Profession, acceptable to the Council, be appointed a regular member of The Commission"

It was further resolved, "That it is the desire of the College of Physicians and Surgeons that the Council spare no efforts in order to attain the objects set out in the discussion in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Board."

REPRESENTATIVES ON MEDICAL COUNCIL OF CANADA

It was resolved "That steps be taken by the Medical Council of Canada to have its membership so constituted that in future it shall consist of members of the Provincial Councils as we are convinced that it is in the best interests of the Medical Council of Canada that policies of that body should be directed by those in active control of the Medical interests in the various provinces."

EXTRACTS FROM THE ALBERTA MEDICAL ACT

Section 34, Clause 7.—"Every person registered under the provisions of this Act shall be restricted to that class of practice only for which he is certified to be qualified and for which he is registered under this Act."

Section 62.—"No duly registered member of the College shall be liable to any action for negligence or malpractice by reason of professional services requested or rendered unless such action be commenced within one year from the date when in the matter complained of such professional services terminated."

Section 64.—"No person shall be appointed as Medical Officer, Physician or Surgeon or in any hospital or other charitable institution unless he is registered under the provisions of this Act and not under suspension."

Section 67, Clause 1.—"Any person shall be held to practice within the meaning of Section 70 of this Act who shall—

- (a) by advertisement, sign or statement of any kind allege ability or willingness to diagnose or treat any human diseases, ills, deformities, defects, or injuries:
- (b) advertise or claim ability or willingness to prescribe or administer any drug, medicine, treatment; or
- (c) perform any operation, manipulation or apply any apparatus or appliance for the cure or treatment of any human disease, defect, deformity or injury;
- (d) act as the agent, assistant or associate of any person, firm or corporation in the practice of medicine as hereinbefore set out;

Provided that this section shall not apply to the practice of dentistry or pharmacy or to the usual business of opticians or vendors of dental or surgical instruments, apparatus and appliances.

Clause 2.—"Nothing in this Act shall prevent private persons from giving necessary medical or surgical aid in times of urgent need, providing that such aid be given without hire, gain or hope of reward."

The Section 70 above referred to deals with penalties and prosecutions, one clause of which is as follows:

"Provided, that the provisions of this Section insofar as they refer to the practice of midwifery shall apply only to the territory included within the limits of any incorporated city, town or village having a resident registered practitioner therein."

RECENT ACT AMENDMENTS GOVERNMENT LIQUOR CONTROL ACT OF ALBERTA

A special permit in the prescribed form may be granted—

(a) to a druggist, physician, dentist or veterinarian or to a person engaged within the Province in mechanical or manufacturing business or in scientific pursuits requiring liquor for us therein;

Any druggist may keep alcohol purchased under special permit to be used solely in compounding medicines or as a solvent or preservative.

A druggist in a municipality where there is no Government liquor store may keep for sale and sell for strictly medicinal purposes liquor purchased by him under special permit, but no sale shall be made except upon a bona fide prescription signed by a physician and not more than one sale and one delivery shall be made on any one prescription, and no such druggist shall have on hand at any one time a quantity of liquor greater than forty ounces.

Any physician who deems liquor necessary for the health of a patient of his, whom he has seen or visited professionally, may give such patient a prescription or he may administer the liquor to the patient, but only such liquor as was purchased by him under special permit. The giving of a prescription or the administering of liquor by a physician in evasion or violation of the Act constitutes an offence against the Act.

THE HOSPITAL ACT

Classification of Patients Admitted to the Sanatorium

Class 1. Residents of Alberta.

The local authority of the area of which every such person is a resident shall pay to the Department at the rate of \$1.50 per day.

Class 2. Non-residents of Alberta who are able to pay for treatment.

Such patients shall pay to the Department \$3.50 per day, payable in advance monthly.

Class 3. Persons seeking admission other than these mentioned in the two foregoing classes.

Such persons shall pay such rates as move be arranged by the Department.

Persons seeking admission for a limited period for observation and diagnosis shall pay, if resident of Alberta, \$1.50, and it non-resident, \$3.50 per day.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT. Accident Fund

"Medical Aid" shall include the several matters and things, including all necessary drugs and dressings, which the Board is empowered by this Act to provide for injured workmen.

Notice of an accident shall be given to the employer or his representative before the injured person leaves the works on the date of the accident, if he is able to do so, and in every case before he has voluntarily left the employment in which he was injured.

Where in any case, in the opinion of the Board it will be in the interests of the accident fund to provide a special surgical operation or other special medical treatment and the furnishing of the same by the Board affords the only means of avoiding heavy payment for permanent disability, the expenses of such operation or treatment shall be paid out of the accident fund.

When the Board provides medical aid or undertakes to pay for medical aid already provided for any injured workman the amount payable shall be fixed by the Board and no action shall lie against the Board nor against the injured workman, his employer or any other person in respect of any amount greater than that fixed by it.

Every employer shall upon the happening of an accident being brought to his attention or to that of his agent, provide immediate transportation to a hospital together with necessary attention upon the journey thereto, for all injured workmen in need of hospital treatment.

Every employer to whom this Act applies having knowledge of the happening of an accident to a workman in his employ, shall forward to the Board within twenty-four hours after the same comes to his knowledge, notification of the happening of such accident and shall also in the event of the injured workman returning to his work, or being able to return to his work, forward to the Board within twenty-four hours after the fact comes to his knowledge notification thereof.

The physician or surgeon who attends an injured workman shall forward to the Board a report within five days after his first attendance and upon the first day of each month, and at such other times as may be required by the Board, progress reports and shall forward to the Board a final report within three days after the said workman is in his opinion able to resume work.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A Financial Statement is presented herewith, it shows an analysis of Receipts and Expenditures for the year. You will note a considerable sum of money has been collected on interest on Real Estate Mortgages. They are all in pretty good shape at present excepting the Hardy property, which owing to a slump in Real Estate in South Edmonton has made it incumbent on the Council to take a loss. The property has come into our possession, part of it has been sold and paid for, and the balance in under an agreement of sale which of course cannot be reported until the payments have been actually made.

Financial Statement of College of Physicians and Surgeons 1922-1923

Receipts— Annual Dues Interim Dues Registration Fees Interest Miscellaneous	25 00 1,859.00 3,618 71
Expenditures -	
Salary Registrar, 16 months Salary Asst. Expenses Council Meetings. Printing and Stationery. Law Costs Audit. Office Rent. Bonding Officers, 2 years. Travelling Expenses Interest and Exchange. Alberta Medical Association Sundry	3,600.00 2,679.61 1,223.40 2,507.56 65.00 240.00 58.00 839.04 34.02
Surplus Receipts	\$ 14,056_66 995_58 \$ 15,052.24

Surplus Assets as Sept. 1st, 1922	7
Assets—	
Cash on hand and in Bank \$ 3,414.79 Dues in Arrears	
Less Reserve	
War Bonds at Cost	
Alberta Bonds at Cost	
Mortgages—	
Langford\$ 845.00	
McWithy 2,000.00 Martin 2,500.00	
White	
Ritchie	
Interest Accrued	
Office Furniture	
Hardy Property (Present Value) 600.00	
Less Dues Paid in Advance	
Net Assets as at Dec. 31st, 1923\$42,013.9	7
	-
Analysis of Law Costs—	
S. Bacon Hillocks, two years\$ 637.41	
McGillivray and Helman (J. J. O'Malley) 244.20	
Howatt & Howatt (Gibbons vs. Harris)	
Barclay Account of three years	
Johnson & Ritchie, Lethbridge. 53.75 Logie & Manley, Wetaskiwin. 18.00	
Court Reporters O'Malley Evidence (Stanley) 49.80	
Negro Prosecution Edmonton	
Prof. Whitnall's Expenses (Chiropractic Bill) 700.00 Sundry Items 169.75	
Total	
\$ 2,507.56	
Comparative Statement	
1921-22 1923-24	
Receipts—	
Annual Dues\$ 3,359.00 \$ 9,530.00	
Interim Fees	
Registration Certificate	
Rentals	
Sundry	
\$ 7,815.69 \$ 15,052.24	
\$ 1,010.09 \$ 10,002.24	

EXPENDITURES-

Registrar Salary \$ Assistance Council Meetings Printing Law Costs Audit Rent Clerical Help Stenographer Insurance Bonding Officials Court Reporter Exchange	1,520.70 487.53 102.00 100.00 150.00 12.00 346.00 86.50 92.50	\$ 1,600.00 (16 mos.) 3,600.00 2,679.61 1,223.40 2,507.56 65.00 240.00 58.00
Exchange Repair House Sundry Travelling Expenses Alberta Medical Association	92.50 8.05 323.06 97.20 4,575.54	34.02 210.03 839.04 1,000.00 \$14,056.66

Yours truly,
The Council of the College
OF Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta



